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Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 15th to 18th, 22nd, 24th, 36th and 37th meetings, on 20, 21, 22 and 27 October, 3 November and 9 and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.15-18, 22, 24, 36 and 37). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 9 October 2003 (see A/C.2/58/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on activities undertaken in implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/58/210)

[1] A/58/3 (Part I) and A/58/3 (Part II) and Corr.1; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3/Rev.1).

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Note by the Secretariat on the future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (A/C.2/58/5)

Letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué adopted by the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters of the Group of 77 at their thirty-fourth meeting, held at Geneva on 26 and 27 June 2003 (A/58/204)

Letter dated 3 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the International Freshwater Forum, held in Dushanbe from 29 August to 1 September 2003 (A/58/337)

Letter dated 11 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Dushanbe Water Appeal (A/58/362)

Letter dated 3 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 30 September 2003 (A/58/415-S/2003/952)

Letter dated 17 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the conclusions of the first global meeting of members of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, held in Merano, Italy, on 5 and 6 October 2003 (A/C.2/58/8)

Letter dated 16 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the joint declaration of the European Union, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Alliance of Small Island States, Switzerland and Turkey entitled "The way forward on renewable energy" (A/C.2/58/10)

4. At the 15th meeting, on 20 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/58/SR.15).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.8 and A/C.2/58/L.49

5. At the 22nd meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Tajikistan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao

People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, the Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015". Subsequently, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, the Comoros, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, France, the Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, the Solomon Islands, Spain, the Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay and Vanuatu joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000, in which it proclaimed the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater,

"*Emphasizing* that water is a driving force for sustainable development, environmental integrity and the eradication of poverty and hunger, indispensable for human health and well-being,

"*Determined* to achieve internationally agreed development goals on water and sanitation, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, which set a goal to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation,

"*Bearing in mind* the comprehensive review of today's water problems and recommendations of the *World Water Development Report 2003*, a joint project of twenty-three United Nations specialized agencies and other entities, and other water-related collaborative mechanisms and initiatives,

"*Taking note* of the Ministerial Declaration entitled 'Message from the Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basin', adopted on 23 March 2003, at the Ministerial Conference on the occasion of the Third World Water Forum, held in Kyoto, Japan, and the Dushanbe Water Appeal, adopted on 1 September 2003 at the International Freshwater Forum, held in Dushanbe,

"1. *Proclaims* the period from 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', commencing on World Water Day, 22 March 2005;

"2. *Decides* that the goal of the Decade should be a greater focus on water-related issues, with emphasis on women as managers of water, and the furtherance of international cooperation among all stakeholders in order to

help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development, Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

"3. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development to identify possible activities and programmes in connection with the Decade within the framework of consideration of water and sanitation issues at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions, as provided for by its Multi-Year Programme of Work;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs with the coordination of activities for the Decade;

"5. *Calls upon* the competent United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system to deliver a coordinated response to make it a 'decade for action'."

6. At the 36th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015" (A/C.2/58/L.49), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.8.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.49 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.49, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.9 and A/C.2/58/L.63

9. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/58/L.9), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 of 20 December 2002 and 57/270 A and B of 20 December 2002 and 23 June 2003, respectively,

"*Recalling also* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"*Reaffirming* the commitment to achieving the time-bound goals and targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"*Expressing its satisfaction* that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, agreed on its organization of work and its multi-year programme of work, as well as new methods of work aimed at promoting and supporting implementation,

"*Noting* the adoption by the Commission at its eleventh session of guidelines on partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, announced at the Summit and in the follow-up to the Summit,

"*Reaffirming* the continuing need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

"*Reaffirming also* that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities undertaken in implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"2. *Reiterates* that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the goals and targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

"3. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations funds, programmes, regional economic commissions and specialized agencies, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take actions to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and in this regard to present his report on an integrated and comprehensive response of the United Nations to sustainable development to the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2004;

"5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session to invite the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission, to organize regional implementation meetings in order to contribute to the work of the Commission, and in this regard urges the regional commissions to take into account the relevant thematic clusters contained in the Commission's programme of work;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present one report for each of the issues included in the thematic cluster to be considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session, as well as a report on the

overall progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, reflecting the interconnectivity among the three pillars of sustainable development and focusing on means of implementation;

"7. *Decides* to allocate the resources previously devoted to the former ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission to support the participation of representatives of States members of the Commission in their respective regional meetings in each implementation cycle;

"8. *Decides also* to allocate the resources previously devoted to the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development to the subprogramme on sustainable development in the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 for the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to support the participation of developing countries in the work and activities of the Commission, as well as in regional meetings;

"9. *Encourages* Governments and organizations at all levels, as well as major groups, to undertake initiatives and activities to support the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to promote and facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"10. *Calls* for the implementation of the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions of the means of implementation, as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and encourages countries to report on concrete progress in this regard;

"11. *Requests* the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in reviewing cross-cutting issues in the relevant thematic clusters, to examine progress in the provision of the means of implementation, utilizing inputs from relevant United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations;

"12. *Urges* the Secretariat to take into due account the national reports in the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 6 above;

"13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled 'Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development', and requests the Secretary-General, at that session, to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

10. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/58/L.63), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.9.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.63, submitted by the

Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/58/L.51).

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.63 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.63, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.9 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000, in which it proclaimed the year 2003 the International Year of Freshwater,

Emphasizing that water is critical for sustainable development, including environmental integrity and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and is indispensable for human health and well-being,

Recalling the provisions of Agenda 21,[1] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted at its nineteenth special session,[2] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[3] and the decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session[4] relating to freshwater,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals on water and sanitation, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] and determined to achieve the goal to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and a similar goal set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation,

Taking note of the contents of the *United Nations World Water Development Report: Water for People, Water for Life*,[6] a joint project of twenty-three United Nations specialized agencies and other entities, and other water-related collaborative mechanisms and initiatives,

Taking note also of the ministerial declaration entitled "Message from the Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basin", adopted on 23 March 2003, at the Ministerial Conference on the occasion of the Third World Water Forum, held in Kyoto, Japan,[7] and the Dushanbe Water Appeal, proclaimed on 1 September 2003 at the

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] S-19/2, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29).

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.2.

[7] A/57/785, annex.

International Freshwater Forum, held in Dushanbe from 29 August to 1 September 2003,[8]

1. *Proclaims* the period from 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", commencing on World Water Day, 22 March 2005;

2. *Decides* that the goals of the Decade should be a greater focus on water-related issues at all levels and on the implementation of water-related programmes and projects, while striving to ensure the participation and involvement of women in water-related development efforts, and the furtherance of cooperation at all levels, in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals contained in Agenda 21,[1] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[2] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[3] and, as appropriate, those identified during the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, as reflected in its multi-year programme of work, to consider water, sanitation and human settlements as the thematic cluster in the first cycle, 2004-2005, and invites the Commission to work within existing resources to identify possible activities and programmes in connection with the Decade within the framework of its consideration of the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions, as provided for by its multi-year programme of work;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take the appropriate steps to organize the activities of the Decade, taking into account the results of the International Year of Freshwater and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions;

5. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system to deliver a coordinated response, utilizing existing resources and voluntary funds, to make "Water for Life" a decade for action.

[8] A/58/362, annex.

Draft resolution II
Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 of 20 December 2002 and 57/270 A and B of 20 December 2002 and 23 June 2003 respectively,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5]

Reaffirming the commitment to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[6]

Expressing its satisfaction that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, agreed on its new organization of work and multi-year programme of work, as well as new methods of work aimed at promoting and supporting implementation and the provision for the Commission to work in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, alternating review and policy years,

Noting the adoption by the Commission, at its eleventh session, of criteria and guidelines on partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, announced at the Summit and in the follow-up to the Summit, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council,[7]

Reaffirming the continuing need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

[7] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61.

Noting the convening in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 16 to 19 June 2003, of an international expert meeting on a ten-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production,

Recognizing that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[8] on the activities undertaken in implementation of Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[3] and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

2. *Reiterates* that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[6] and in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;[5]

3. *Calls upon* Governments, all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and other intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, as well as major groups, to take action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the Summit, and encourages them to report on concrete progress in that regard;

4. *Calls for* the implementation of the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the Summit and, to that end, for the fulfilment of the provisions relating to the means of implementation, as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and in that regard to report on such inter-agency cooperation and coordination activities to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council in 2004;

6. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission at its eleventh session to invite the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission, to consider organizing regional implementation meetings in order to contribute to the work of the Commission, and in this regard urges the regional commissions to take into account the relevant thematic clusters contained in the Commission's programme of work and to provide inputs as specified by the Commission at its eleventh session;

7. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Commission at its eleventh session to invite other regional and subregional bodies and institutions within and outside the United Nations system to contribute to the preparations for the Commission's review and policy sessions and the intergovernmental preparatory meeting;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in reporting to the Commission at its twelfth session on the state of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the

[8] A/58/210.

Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on the basis of inputs from all levels, as specified by the Commission at its eleventh session, to submit:

(a) One report on each of the issues of water, sanitation and human settlement, to be addressed in an integrated manner during the session, which should contain a detailed review of the progress of implementation relating to those issues, taking into account, as appropriate, their interlinkages, while addressing the cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission at its eleventh session;

(b) A report on overall progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, reflecting (i) cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission at its eleventh session; (ii) progress made in the three dimensions of sustainable development and their integration; and (iii) constraints, challenges, opportunities, best practices, information-sharing and lessons learned;

9. *Invites* the Bureau of the Commission at its twelfth session to continue to recommend to the Commission the specific organizational modalities through open-ended and transparent consultations to be conducted in a timely manner, following the established United Nations rules of procedure, bearing in mind that the activities during Commission meetings should provide for balanced involvement of participants from all regions, as well as for gender balance;

10. *Decides* to allocate the resources previously devoted to the former ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission to support the participation of representatives of member States of the Commission in one of their respective regional meetings in each implementation cycle;

11. *Invites* donor countries to consider supporting the participation of experts from developing countries in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlement in the next review and policy sessions of the Commission;

12. *Decides* that resources released by the termination of the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, whose work has been transferred to the Commission, shall be used to support the work of the Commission;

13. *Encourages* Governments and organizations at all levels, as well as major groups, including the scientific community and educators, to undertake results-oriented initiatives and activities to support the work of the Commission and to promote and facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including through voluntary multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives;

14. *Also encourages* Governments to participate, at the appropriate level, through representatives of relevant departments and agencies responsible for water, sanitation and human settlement, in the next review and policy sessions of the Commission,

15. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit a summary report containing synthesized information on partnerships to the Commission at its twelfth session, in accordance with its programme and organization of work, noting the particular relevance of such reports in review years, with a view to sharing lessons learned and

best practices, and identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

16. *Requests* the Commission, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and as specified by the Commission at its eleventh session, to examine progress made in the cross-cutting issues in the relevant thematic clusters, utilizing inputs from all levels, as specified by the Commission at its eleventh session;

17. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation relevant to its mandate, in particular to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination;

18. *Urges* the Secretariat, in the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 8 above, to take due account of national reports;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development", and requests the Secretary-General, at that session, to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 15th to 18th, 24th and 37th meetings, on 20, 21 and 22 October, 3 November and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.15-18, 24 and 37). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 9 October (see A/C.2/58/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 3 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 26 September 2003 (A/58/415-S/2003/952).

4. At the 15th meeting, on 20 October, the Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Liaison Office to the United Nations made an oral presentation on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO (see A/C.2/58/SR.15).

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II. Consideration of proposals

Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.13 and A/C.2/58/L.70

5. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Andorra, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Egypt, Gabon, Guatemala, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/58/L.13). Subsequently, Algeria, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Fiji, Iceland, Jamaica, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, South Africa, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Ukraine and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* paragraph 124 (d) of the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002 ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"*Recalling also* its resolution 57/254 of 20 December 2002,

"*Reaffirming* the goals and the target year for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the Dakar Framework for Action,

"*Welcoming* the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

"*Emphasizing* that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

"1. *Appreciates* the Framework for a Draft International Implementation Scheme prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, expects the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to demonstrate its leadership for the promotion of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and requests it to develop further a draft international implementation scheme, clarifying its relationship with the existing educational processes, in particular, the Dakar Framework for Action and the United Nations Literacy Decade, in consultation with the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;

"2. *Reaffirms* that Education for Sustainable Development is an education necessary to tackle various issues regarding the question of sustainability, in particular, those of biological diversity, atmosphere, water, food, overpopulation, poverty, health, human rights, gender equality, peace-building and cultural diversity, with the aim of achieving sustainable development, and, based on this recognition, invites Governments to include measures conforming to their realities and needs to implement Education for Sustainable Development in their respective educational strategies and action

plans by 2005, taking into account the international implementation scheme to be prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

"3. *Recognizes* that sharing values necessary for achieving sustainable development among all citizens through the promotion of Education for Sustainable Development is of utmost importance, and therefore invites Governments to reinforce cooperation and networking with all relevant stakeholders including Governments, provincial regions, local communities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations;

"4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled 'United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'."

6. At its 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/58/L.70), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.13.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Japan orally corrected the draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.70 as orally corrected (see para. 10).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.70, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 36 of Agenda 21, on promoting education, public awareness and training, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992,[1]

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on education, in particular its provision 124 (d) on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,[2]

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[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janiero, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Recalling further its resolution 57/254 of 20 December 2002,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goal of achieving universal primary education, in particular that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling,

Taking note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, identified education as one of the cross-cutting issues of its multi-year programme of work,

Emphasizing that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the Framework for a Draft International Implementation Scheme prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the designated lead agency, to promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in coordination with other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, and further requests it to finalize the international implementation scheme, while clarifying its relationship with the existing educational processes, in particular the Dakar Framework for Action[3] and the United Nations Literacy Decade,[4] in consultation with Governments, the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;

2. *Reaffirms* that education for sustainable development is critical for promoting sustainable development, and in this regard encourages Governments to consider the inclusion of measures to implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in their respective educational strategies and national development plans by 2005;

3. *Invites* Governments to promote public awareness of and wider participation in the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, including through cooperation and initiatives engaging civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development".

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[3] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[4] See resolution 56/116.